

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 HEW-08 SWF-02 EB-11 AGR-20

EUR-25 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /186 W

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O R 270219Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8145

INFO USUN NEW YORK 578

JCS

DIA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSAFSO IMMEDIATE

COMSUNAVSO IMMEDIATE

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STATE PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, HO

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI - SITREP 14

REF: SITREP

1. AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ RETURNED FROM HIS INSPECTION AND
EVALUATION FLIGHT TO THE NORTH COAST LATE AFTERNOON ON
SEPTEMBER 26. HE SAID THAT ON HIS ARRIVAL AT LA MESA
AIRPORT HE CONVENED A MEETING OF THE MILGP COMMANDER, THE
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SOUTHCORP HELICOPTER PILOTS AND CREWS, THE MILGP COORDINATOR AND

THE DISPATCHER. THEY CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS AND CONCLUDED THAT THEY ARE NOT NEEDED. THE HELICOPTER CREWS REPORTED THE FLOOD WATERS HAD DRASTICALLY RECEDED AND THAT REDISTRIBUTION AND REHABILITATION AREAS ARE BEING SET UP AND THAT PEOPLE ARE GOING TO THOSE AREAS. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT THE WATER IS RECEDING INTO THE RIVERBEDS BUT THE RIVERS ARE SWIFT, DEEP AND DANGEROUS.

2. THE HELICOPTER CREWS REPORT THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEM WITH THE HELICOPTERS IS THE LACK OF FUEL. THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY OBSERVED THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM. HOWEVER, AS OF THIS AFTERNOON FUEL IS BEING MOVED INTO INLAND POINTS FOR RESUPPLY PURPOSES.

3. HELICOPTERS NOW ON HAND ARE CAPABLE OF CARRYING MORE THAN THE FLOW OF SUPPLIES REACHING THE REDISTRIBUTION POINTS. THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY CONFIRMED THIS IN HIS VISIT TO REDISTRIBUTION POINTS IN PROGRESO AND TOCOA. TOCOA REPORTED GREAT NEED FOR BASIC GRAINS (CORN, BEANS, RICE) AND LARD, SALT AND SUGAR.

4. FOLLOWING ITEMS REPORTED BY U.S. MILGP OFFICER ON SCENE IN SAN PEDRO SULA:

(A) TWO BRITISH CARGO SHIPS, FOX AND FAWN, UNLOADED UNKNOWN QUANTITY OF FOOD, WATER, CLOTHES AND MEDICINES AT ROATAN AND GUANAJA ISLANDS;

(B) ARGENTINA C-130 ARRIVED LA MESA WITH 34,000 LBS; 60 PERCENT FOOD, 40 PERCENT CLOTHES;

(C) CHILEAN C-130 ARRIVED LA MESA WITH 25,478 BLANKETS, MATTRESSES, FOOD, MEDICINE AND MILK;

(D) BRITISH C-130 DEPARTED LA MESA AND PICKED UP 30,000 LBS, CORN, BEANS, AND RICE AT TONCONTIN TO DELIVER TO GOLOSON AIRPORT OUTSIDE LA CEIBA.

5. ACCORDING TO A BULLETIN ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMY SEPTEMBER 25 THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PLACED UNDER PRICE CONTROLS:

(A) SPECIFIC FOODSTUFFS, INCLUDING OIL, LARD, BABY FOODS, SUGAR, COFFEE, BEEF, PORK, POULTRY, EGGS, MILK, MARGERINE, BAKERY PRODUCTS, PASTA, SOUPS AND SALT;

(B) TOILET ARTICLES, INCLUDING SOAP, DETERGENTS, UNCLASSIFIED

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TOILET PAPER, MEDICINES;

(C) RAW MATERIALS AND MATERIALS WHICH ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING COTTON, BLANKETS, SAND, GRAVEL, CEMENT, SPARE PARTS, TOOLS, BATTERIES, FERTILIZERS.

6. UNITED BRANDS HONDURAS MANAGER, HOUSTON LACOMBE, IN AN INTERVIEW IN TIEMPO SEPTEMBER 25, GAVE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES ON FINANCIAL LOSS ON BANANA PLANTATIONS AT \$22 MILLION AND

LOSSES ON COMPANY RAILROADS AT \$125 MILLION. HE ADDED THAT WORK TO REBUILD THE COMPANY DOCKS IN PUERTO CORTES AND TELA WOULD BEGIN SOON. THE SAME EDITION OF TIEMPO QUOTED COMPANY PRODUCTION MANAGER ARNOLD BUESO AS SAYING THAT UNITED BRANDS WILL RECONSTRUCT ITS PLANTATIONS AND CONTINUE OPERATING IN HONDURAS.

7. THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY HAS ANNOUNCED THE CITATION OF 219 BUSINESSES FOR ILLEGAL PRICE GOUGING.

8. TIEMPO OF SEPTEMBER 25 ALSO DETAILS NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS OF DISORGANIZATION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF RELIEF SUPPLIES. ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS CASES WAS OUTLINED BY AN OFFICIAL OF LOCAL RED CROSS WHO SAID THAT ORGANIZATION HAS ESSENTIALLY BEEN SIDELINED BY COPEN FROM RELIEF ACTIVITIES. SHIPMENT FROM OTHER NATIONAL RED CROSS ORGANIZATIONS CONSIGNED TO THE HONDURAN RED CROSS ARE BEING TAKEN BY OTHER AUTHORITIES AND THE LOCAL RED CROSS IS NOT BEING PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN DISTRIBUTION OF RED CROSS SHIPMENTS. LOCAL

RED CROSS OFFICIAL QUOTED BY TIEMPO SAID THAT UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES HONDURAS IS IN DANGER OF LOSING INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ASSISTANCE.

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9. ON SEPTEMBER 26 COPEN'S NEWLY ESTABLISHED OFFICE FOR COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL AID MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF DAILY MEETINGS. MAJOR DECISIONS TAKEN WERE:

- (1) AGENCIES WILL EXCHANGE REPORTS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE AND COMMODITIES ON ORDER;
- (2) DISASTER OPERATIONS WERE DIVIDED INTO THREE MAJOR PHASES: (A) RESCUE, (B) REHABILITATION AND (C) RECONSTRUCTION. AGENCIES INDICATED IN WHICH PHASES THEY WERE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE.

10. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS ALSO PRESENTED: (1) THE UNCLASSIFIED

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\$500,000 OAS FONDEM RELIEF FUNDS WERE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) EMERGENCY ROOFING PLUS NAILS, TOOLS, ETC. \$380,000
 - (B) 7 VEHICLES FOR MOBILE HEALTH OPERATIONS \$ 35,000
 - (C) MEDICINES NOT OTHERWISE AVAILABLE \$ 30,000
 - (D) EQUIPMENT FOR 2 SMALL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS \$ 10,000
 - (E) RURAL WATER SYSTEMS \$ 42,000
 - (F) SMALL WATER PUMPS \$ 3,000
- (2) COPEN HAS INSTRUCTED THE NATIONAL HOUSING INSTITUTE (INVA) TMFCONSTRUCT 500 EMERGENCY DWELLING UNITS WITH CAPACITY FOR 8 FMAILIES EACH. THESE WILL BE BUILT IN SAN PEDRO, PUERTO CORTES, CHOLOMA AND OMOA.

11. THE SALVATION ARMY HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY COPEN TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE AGUAN VALLEY. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR LOCATING TEAMS AT TRUJILLO, TOCOA AND OLANCHITO. THEIR PRESENT STAFF NUMBERS 18 MEDICAL AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL.

12. PEACE CORPS STILL HAS TWO VOLUNTEERS UNACCOUNTED FOR BUT THEY ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF DISASTER AREA. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ANY U.S. CASUALTIES.

13. SENSATIONALIST PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT PEOPLE IN DISASTER AREAS STILL AWAITING RESCUE. HOWEVER, THOROUGH SEARCH OF DISASTER AREAS DO NOT REPEAT NOT BEAR OUT SUCH STORIES. MISSION BELIEVES THAT RESCUE AND EVACUATION OPERATION

HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY COMPLETED.

14. HONDURAS JUST COMPLETED RADIO-TV MARATHON ORGANIZED BY JOSE RAFAEL FERRARI AND MANUEL VILLEDA TOLEDO. MARATHON VERY SUCCESSFUL IN PRODUCING SUPPLIES AND MONEY.

15. EVALUATION AND INQUIRY COMMITTEES FUNDED BY MARATHON COMMITTEE PROCEEDS AND DIRECTED BY FERRARI AND VILLEDA HAVE BEEN FORMED TO INVESTIGATE SIX SPECIFIC DISASTER AREAS. COMMITTEES WILL PREPARE ESTIMATES OF DAMAGE AND WILL DEVELOP PLAND TO ACCOUNT FOR RELIEF SUPPLIES. AREA NO. 1 IS THE EL PROGRESO - LA LIMA - SANTA RITA - URRACO - SAN PEDRO SULA REGION. AMBASSADOR MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMPANY COMMITTEE TO AREA ON EARLY MORNING FLIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 27. THE AMBASSADOR IS HOPEFUL THAT THE RESULT OF THE WORK OF THESE COMMITTEES WILL BE HELPFUL TO THE GOH AND THE MISSION
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IN ASSESSING AND CONTROLLING EVALUATION ACTIVITIES.
SANCHEZ

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